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O R 271223Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5928
INFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 777
RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9376
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7466
RUHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1949
RUQMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 522

EXDIS

CHARGE*

CRMN

BT
C O M F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 7218

EXDIS

E.O. 12865: DUS 9/27/95 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR AF US
SUBJ: CHARGE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT AMIN

REF: A) STATE 258412 (NOTAL), B) STATE 253278 (NOTAL)

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. I HAD AN AMICABLE, RELAXED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AMIN THIS MORNING. HE WAS ALL CHARM AND FRIENDLINESS AND MADE A PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NO REALLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

3. THESE LAST FEW DAYS, AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN QUEUING UP TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT AMIN ON HIS "ELECTION" AS NEW AFGHAN PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY. I WAS THE FIFTE ENVOY TO SEE HIM THIS MORNING, AND I WAS TOLD A SIXTH WOULD BE FOLLOWING ME THIS AFTERNOON.

4. AMIN WAS RELAXED, POISED AND OUTWARDLY FRIENDLY. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING WOUNDED IN THE REPORTED PALACE SHOOTOUT OF SEPT 14. IN OBSERVING THIS SENIAL MAN, IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HE WHO HAS SURVIVED PLOT AFTER PLOT AND HAS EMERGED ON TOP. AS I LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD NOT HELP BUT RECALL THAT ONLY TWO YEARS AGO, IN 1977, WHEN WE DID ONE OF THOSE REQUIRED PERIODICAL EXERCISES TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL LEADERS, WE DIDN'T INCLUDE AMIN. IT WAS ALSO HARD TO REALIZE IN TALKING WITH THIS FRIENDLY FELLOW THAT IT WAS HE TOO THAT HAS BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

EXECUTION OF PROBABLY 1,104 POLITICAL OFFICIALS. IN EVERYTHING HE SAID, IT SOUNDED REASONABLE AND PROTECTED THE IMAGE OF A MAN YOU COULD REASON WITH AND REACH UNDERSTANDING.

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, I WAS UNDER TWO TIGHT INSTRUCTIONS: ONE TO KEEP THE MEETING SHORT AND THE OTHER TO SAY NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE OTHER THAN TO OBSERVE THE USG DESIRE TO SHARE AMIN'S OFF-PARTIAL POLITICAL FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS. WHEN YOU KNOW THAT THE OBVIOUSLY TEA-DRINKING DRILL WILL NOT START FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, AND THAT A TOO HASTY RETREAT WILL BE SEEN AS AN APOLOGY, MY STAFF AND I HAD WRACLED OUR BRAINS BEFORE AND AS TO WHAT SHALL TALK I COULD RESORT TO TO PASS THE TIME. FOR IT ALL TURNED OUT TO BE LESS OF A PROBLEM THAN I FEARED. AMIN WAS IN A LOQUACIOUS MOOD, AND I LEFT HIM DO MOST OF THE TALKING. WE HAD ONE PICTURE TAKEN -- IN FACT, THAT TOOK ABOUT FOUR MINUTES -- AND TO MY ASTONISHMENT THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK NINE PICTURES. SINCE THE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD THEIR PICTURES WITH AMIN FEATURED IN THE LOCAL PRESS ALL THIS PAST WEEK, I SUPPOSE MINE WILL SHOW UP THERE IN THE COURSE.

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5021
BFO RUMJPG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 775
RUSBGD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9377
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7465

RUEHMC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1957
RUHMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 523✓

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 7215

EXDIS

6. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PHOTOGRAPHERS LEFT, AMIN SAID THAT HE WANTED IT MADE CLEAR TO WASHINGTON THAT HE DESIRED "BETTER AND FRIENDLIER RELATIONS". THANK GOODNESS, I WAS ABLE TO RESPOND THAT WASHINGTON SHARES A SENTIMENT FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS, TOO. HE THEN LAID THE PITCH, WHICH HE HAS MADE SO OFTEN TO VISITORS IN THE PAST, THAT THE DRA HARORS NO ILLWILL TOWARD ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, IN FACT WISHES TO DO ON GOOD TERMS WITH EVERY NATION, AND THAT IT SINCERELY DESIRES PEACE. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR PREVIOUS LINE THAT AFGHANISTAN IS A BACKWARD COUNTRY WHICH URGENTLY NEEDS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS, AND IT CAN ONLY DO SO WITH THE HELP OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THOUGH HE DIDN'T MENTION USAID SPECIFICALLY, IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS THAT HE HOPED HE COULD SOMEDAY SEE OUR WAY TO SUPPORT THE DRA'S DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

7. HE ALSO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING AN AMBASSADOR IN MANY COUNTRIES (READ AMONG THESE THE USA), EXPLAINING THAT THE PARTY WAS DESPERATELY SHORT OF QUALIFIED PEOPLE WHO COULD ADEQUATELY REPRESENT THE REGIME. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE LOOKED TO ME. HE SAID, TO BE THE PRIMARY CONDUIT FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AFGHANISTAN. PURSUING THIS THEME, HE TWICE SAID THAT HIS DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO RECEIVE ME WHENEVER I WISHED TO CONSULT HIM. GOING BEING MINDFUL OF THE DEMAND OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE U.S. MISSION, I TRIED TO SAY SOME POSITIVE THINGS TO LEAVE A SALUTARY IMPRESSION. I BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THAT THE DC-7: FOR ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KABUL ON OCTOBER 7, AND I SAID THAT, "I HOPED NOTHING WOULD DEVELOP TO PREVENT ITS COMING." I THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY REDUCED ITS TARIFF LEVELS ON SEVEN ITEMS WHICH AFGHANISTAN EXPORTED TO THE U.S. (AS A RESULT OF THE TOKYO ROUND), AND THAT THOUGH THIS MEANT A REVENUE LOSS TO OUR TREASURY, I FELT IT WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT FOR AFGHANISTAN BY INCREASING EXPORTS. FINALLY, I REFERRED TO HIS INTEREST IN SOLAR ENERGY, AND HIS HAVING MET A VISITING AMERICAN EXPERT IN THIS FIELD IN KABUL LAST JULY, AND SAID THAT USICA PLANNED A FULL-SCALE EXHIBIT ON THIS SUBJECT NEXT YEAR. HIS RESPONSE TO THAT WAS ONE OF ENTHUSIASM, AND HE SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION.

8. THAT'S ABOUT ALL. I THINK BY HAVING CALLED ON HIM WAS A WISE MOVE. I THINK HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND THE DEPT. A MESSAGE THAT HE WANTED BETTER RELATIONS, AND HE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT. WHEN I NEXT MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DOST, I PLAN IF NECESSARY TO REFER TO AMIN'S DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS AS AN ARGUMENT FOR THE WFA TO EASE UP ON US ON THE MISSION STAFFING ISSUE.

12. BEARING IN MIND THE DEPARTMENT'S STRUCTURE THAT I KEEP THE MEETING SHORT, I LOOKED AT MY WATCH WHEN I LEFT AND, COUNTING IT IS FOUR MINUTES WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE THERE, I WAS IN AMIN'S RECEPTION ROOM FOR 19 MINUTES. THE TIMING ALL AROUND WAS, I THOUGHT, JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

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MEMBASSY ISLAMAPAD

MEMBASSY NEW DELHI

MEMBASSY MOSCOW

MEMBASSY TEHRAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC MR

REVIEWED BY *G.E. Laffler* DATE 10-4-81

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL-7219

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0.12065: GDS 9/27/85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M

AGS: PEPR AF US

UCL: CHARGE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT AMIN

EF: A) STATE 250412 (NOTAL), B) STATE 250279 (NOTAL)

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